Manufacturing of Cine Colour Positive Film by HPF Co. Ltd.

517. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Company Limited has a proposal for manufacture of cine colour positive film at Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether that company had obtained a letter of intent in 1981 itself;

(c) whether the Central Government have cleared the project;

(d) if not, the reason thereof; and

(e) whether Government proposes to clear the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Eighth Plan proposals are yet to be finalised.

Termination of verdict society project by Capart

518. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Social Organisation known as VERDICT SOCIETY, Calcutta was sanctioned a project through CAPART with amount sanctioned on 8th January, 1988;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the instalments of the sanctioned amount was sanctioned late, the said social organisation suffered loss by way of spoiling of medicinal plants, extracts powder etc.;

(c) whether it is also a fact that CAPART (Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology) suddenly terminated the project on 25th April, 1990;

(d) whether the VERDICT SOCIETY had spent money on their own for the project for the period from August, 1989 to April, 1990 i.e. till the termination order;

(e) whether VERDICT SOCIETY had urged Government to sanction fund for the above-mentioned period to enable them to pay off the loans; and

(f) whether Government is sympathetically considering their request in view of the circumstances they had explained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CAPART released 1st instalment to the Society after it accepted the terms and conditions on 13.1.88. CAPART releases the subsequent instalments only after receipt and due examination of progress reports and statement of expenditure incurred for the amounts already released and monitoring the progress made duing implementation of project. In this case the 1st progress report was receied after eight months delay. After due examination there-of and obtaining the necessary clarifications, the 2nd instalment was released on 15th June, 1989. No information relating to spoilage of medicinal plants was received by CAPART till that time.

(c) No, Sir, CAPART got the project evaluated by a technical monitor in October, 1989 and based on his report which highlighted many deficiencies in the implementation of the project, CAPART decided to terminate it.

(d) This was represented to Government by the Verdict Society.

(e) The society had in their letter of 18th December, 1989 approached the Government stating that if the project was proposed to be continued, Rs. 2,95,800/- should be released in a lumpsum, and if it was decided to wind up the project, they should be released

Rs. 42,000/-. CAPART did not consider it possible to continue the project.

(f) CAPART had examined the entire matter but did not find it possible to continue the project and, therefore, terminated the project in April, 1990. But taking a sympathetic view, it was decided by CAPART in April, 1991 to donate to the society the laboratory equipment and glassware etc. purchased by it at a cost of Rs. 45,234|- out of the project grant.

Minimum pension recommended by the IV Pay Commission

519. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per IV Pay Commission's recommendations minimum family pension to dependents of retired Government Employees has been fixed as Rs. 375;

(b) if so, whether the minimum ex-gratia amount being given to dependents of deceased employees who had retired on Provident Fund scheme is also being revised to the minimum pension recommended by IV Pay Commission;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Supreme Court had upheld the claim for enhancement of minimum ex-gratia amount being given to dependents of deceased Provident Fund retirees to Rs. 375; and

(e) whether this decision has been implemented; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) While the Pay Commission had recommended the minimum family pension @ Rs. 300 p.m. Government had improved upon the recommendations and sanctioned the minimum family pension @ Rs. 375 p.m. w.e.f. 1-1-86.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Families of the deceased CPF retirees are not entitled to family pension under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. Purely on sympathetic ground, the Government had accepted the recommendation of the Pay Commission to grant ex-gratia payment to them @ Rs 150 p.m. w.e.f. 1-1-86 plus dearness relief as sanctioned from time to time.

(d) This Ministry is not aware of any such judgement of the Supreme Court.

(e) Does not arise.

Problems of employees of Gandhi Ashram

520. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had appointed a committee to examine the problems of employees of Gandhi Ashram and other Voluntary Organisations connected with Khadi movement;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has since submitted their recommendations;

(c) if so, the nature of their recommendations; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) In view of the reply at (d) these do not arise.

Ex-gratia pension to surviving Provident Fund retirees

521. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has received a telegram dated 7-8-91 from the President of All India Federation of Pensioners' Associations, Madras, urging for acceptance of IV Pay Commissios s recommendation for grant of ex-gratia pension to surviving Provident Fund retirees;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering grant of ex-gratia pension to surviving Provident Fund retirees on humanitarian grounds; and